

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method of selectively recording and playing the content of a broadcast program, the method comprising:

(a) playing on a media player one of a plurality of prestored files, the files including program content;

(b) receiving a broadcast program;

(c) determining whether a predetermined criteria associated with the broadcast program is met; and

(d) if the predetermined criteria is met:

(i) automatically recording at least a portion of content of the broadcast program, and

(ii) at the end of playing the one prestored file, automatically playing the recorded content of the broadcast program on the media player.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

(e) deleting the recorded content of the broadcast program after it is played.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

(e) setting a flag indicating that there is recorded content of a broadcast program that is to be played after the playing of the one prestored file is completed;

(f) clearing the flag after the recorded content of the broadcast program is played; and

(g) playing another one of the prestored files.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) further comprises using voice recognition to determine whether the predetermined criteria is met.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the predetermined criteria is met when an inaudible tone is detected in the content of the broadcast program.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

(e) selecting a channel over which to receive and monitor broadcasted programs; and

(f) specifying a time during which the content of a particular broadcasted program received over the channel is to be recorded.

7. A computer-implemented method of selectively recording and playing the content of a broadcast program, the method comprising:

(a) playing on a media player one of a plurality of prestored files, the files including program content;

(b) receiving a broadcast program;

(c) determining whether a predetermined criteria associated with the broadcast program is met; and

(d) if the predetermined criteria is met:

(i) automatically recording at least a portion of content of the broadcast program, and

(ii) automatically interrupting the playing of the one prestored file and playing the recorded content of the broadcast program on the media player.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:

(e) deleting the recorded content of the broadcast program after it is played.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

(f) playing another one of the prestored files after the recorded content of the broadcast program is deleted.

10. A computer-implemented method of selectively recording and playing the content of a broadcast program, the method comprising:

(a) playing on a media player one of a plurality of prestored files, the files including program content;

(b) receiving a broadcast program;

(c) recording at least a portion of content of the broadcast program; and

(d) determining whether to:

(i) automatically interrupt the playing of the one prestored file in order to play recorded content of the broadcast program on the media player, or

(ii) automatically play the recorded content of the broadcast program on the media player after the end of playing the one prestored file.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein voice recognition is used while monitoring the broadcast program to make the determination of step (d).

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the detection of an inaudible tone in the content of the broadcast program is used to make the determination of step (d).